



Volume 23, Issue 1 | Winter 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Treema Murray, MNEA-R President

Dear MNEA-R Members,

I am thrilled to reflect on what an incredible experience this year's **MNEA Fall Conference** was for MNEA-R. The Executive Council was proud to showcase the strength, engagement, and enthusiasm of our retired members throughout the weekend.

We offered six learning seminars during the conference, and the response was amazing. Sessions were well attended by both retired and active members, with many filled to capacity—and some even standing room only. This shows the continued value of MNEA-R experience and our members' dedication to lifelong learning.



Our welcoming membership table was a hub of connection and conversation. Pre-RETired attendees were greeted with goody bags, badge ribbons, and opportunities to meet MNEA-R leaders. I am delighted to report that our **Membership Drive was a tremendous success**, with many new members joining during the conference.

Saturday evening was a highlight with the **inaugural MNEA Foundations Gala**, featuring outstanding entertainment from the St. Charles High School Jazz Band, a comedy performance, and the presentation of MNEA Progress Awards honoring members for their dedication and impact. The evening concluded with music, dancing, and fellowship at a relaxed after-party.

Conference energy continued on Sunday morning with breakfast and our final MNEA-R session. To celebrate participation and new membership, gift cards were raffled to Pre-RETired members and to those who joined MNEA-R Pre-Retired during the conference.

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to the **GKC, METRO, and East Central Regional Groups** for their generous support and donated gift cards, which helped make the membership drive such a success. Special appreciation also goes to **Judy Hinsley** for her dedication to staffing the membership table on both Friday and Saturday.

Thank you to everyone who attended, participated, and supported MNEA-R throughout the weekend. Your involvement made this conference a huge success. The Executive Council and I are already looking forward to next year and encourage all members to make plans now to attend the next MNEA Fall Conference.

Looking ahead, I also want to personally encourage all MNEA-R members to register for the **MNEA-R Annual Meeting this April**—our most important gathering of the year. Every registered member serves as a **voting delegate**, helping conduct the essential business of our Local Association—the largest local within MNEA.

In addition to conducting business, the Annual Meeting offers opportunities for fellowship and connection. Members will enjoy coffee and desserts and participate in the **CHEER Raffle**. Whether you attend for the day or make it a full weekend, there are plenty of ways to connect and engage.

MNEA will host activities on Friday evening, followed by the start of the **MNEA Representative Assembly** the next day. Our MNEA-R Members are invited to sit in the visitors' section and hear directly from MNEA leadership about the association's successes, challenges, and goals for the future. Of course, you'll also see our (MNEA-R's) 26 dedicated MNEA RA Delegates fill the first row as they participate in the RA!

The **MidMO Regional**, our HOST City, under the leadership of President **Susan McClintic**, is busy creating a list of fun activities in and around Columbia for those who wish to extend their stay. Grab a few friends, enjoy the fellowship, and make it a memorable weekend.

I look forward to seeing you in April as we come together to strengthen MNEA-R, conduct our business, and celebrate the power of our retired members. **Make plans now to attend!**

With gratitude,

Treena Murray
President, MNEA-R

2025-2026 MNEA-R Membership Drive

MNEA-R Vice President, Linda Innes

Retirement Seminars, Outreach, and Growing Our Membership

This past fall, the MNEA-R Membership Committee hosted a series of retirement seminars across the state, along with successful outreach efforts at the MNEA Fall Conference. These events provided valuable information to members nearing retirement and helped strengthen MNEA-R's presence with both retired and active educators.

Fall Retirement Seminars

At each retirement seminar, participants were welcomed with a **McAlister's breakfast box and bottled water**. Everyone received a **swag bag** filled with helpful materials and fun giveaways, including:

- Information on joining **MNEA-R**
- Details on applying for a **CHEER Grant**
- A stress-relief heart and luggage tags were ordered specifically for these events
- Additional MNEA giveaways such as notepads, bags, pencils, pens, and stickers

St. Louis – October 11

- **Location:** CWA Hall
- **Registered:** 28 | **Attended:** 17

Despite a few technology challenges, the seminar was a success thanks to **Vickie Jordan**, our outstanding CWA liaison, who worked tirelessly to assist throughout the morning.

- **MBhealth of St. Louis** presented information on the Marketplace and Medicare.
- The **PSRS presentation** was delivered via live video.
- Due to the government shutdown, we were unable to host a Social Security presentation. However, our presenter later provided helpful online resources, which were shared with participants.

Special thanks to **Mary Thomasson, Sandy Kettelkamp, and Holly Garrett**, whose support was invaluable as we navigated our first seminar of the season.

Kansas City – October 18

- **Location:** Literacy KC
- **Registered:** 14 | **Attended:** 7

This seminar was held in **Netty Doyle's classroom**, where she teaches, under the leadership of **Principal Wendy Kline**. Attendance was unfortunately impacted by the **Kansas City Marathon**, which caused road closures and prevented some participants from reaching the site.

Even so, the presentations were excellent. Again, the government shutdown prevented a Social Security presentation. Many thanks to **Wendy Kline, Georgia Brady, Kassie Payne, and Beth Ann Roland** for their help—this event truly could not have happened without them.

St. Louis – November 1

- **Registered: 33 | Attended: 19**

Returning to St. Louis allowed us to apply lessons learned from the earlier seminar, resulting in smoother logistics and an even better experience. Participants asked thoughtful questions and expressed sincere appreciation for the information shared.

Thank you once again to **Mary Thomasson and Sandy Kettelkamp**, and to **Sabina Button** from Kansas City, who joined us for this seminar.

Columbia – November 8

Unfortunately, the Columbia seminar was **cancelled due to a lack of registrations**.

Looking Ahead: Joplin Retirement Seminar

The MNEA-R Membership Committee is moving forward with plans for a **retirement seminar in Joplin on March 6**.

- The event was advertised at the Fall Conference.
- Sign-up information has been emailed to local presidents.
- Leaders in **Governance Districts 2 and 3** will soon receive the flyer again, both digitally and in print.

We are hopeful for a strong turnout and encourage retired members to spread the word to active educators in the Joplin area.

Fall Conference Success: Recruiting Pre-Retired Members

MNEA-R had a very successful presence at the **MNEA Fall Conference**. Under the leadership of **President Treena Murray**, we introduced eye-catching **swag bags filled with tasty treats** for active members who were already Pre-Retired.

These goody bags drew people to our table, where we highlighted **gift cards donated by retired regional groups**. Attendees received raffle tickets, and MNEA-R had the honor of being the **final group on stage**, drawing tickets and announcing winners.

Twelve active members signed up as Pre-Retired that weekend—a fantastic result and a truly successful event!

Thank you to everyone who helped make these seminars and outreach efforts meaningful and impactful. Together, we continue to support and grow MNEA-R.

MNEA-R Membership Committee, Linda Innes, Chair

Georgia Brady, Jane McPartland, Netty Doyle, Mary Thomasson, Sandy Kettlekamp

MNEA-R CHEER Grant 2025–2026

Kassie Payne, CHEER Committee Member



CHEER—Caring Help for Education Endeavors by Retirees—

is a meaningful way MNEA-Retired members continue to support public education long after leaving the classroom. Through the CHEER Grant Program, retirees reach out to public school employees—particularly early-career educators who are MNEA members—by providing financial and material resources that help them succeed.

Thanks to the generosity of our retirees, **CHEER sponsors personally distributed grant checks to recipients this year**, strengthening connections between retired and active members across Missouri. The 2025-2026 year was a tremendous success, with **28 grants awarded totaling \$7,508**.

Special thank you to MNEA-R CHEER Committee, Janet Leachman and Carol Weatherford: Co-Chairs, Judy Hinsley, Holly Garrett, and Sabina Button.

Looking Ahead

Applications for the **2026-2027 CHEER Grants** will open this spring, with a **submission deadline of October 15, 2026**. We are always in need of retirees willing to serve as sponsors—especially for active members working in rural areas.

If you are interested in becoming a CHEER sponsor and have not yet signed up, please complete the sponsor form [here](#):

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ujyPurlfvkFKbLAQkPtYJ3Cfrml6ua5adpkdlZrEpgw/viewform
?edit_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ujyPurlfvkFKbLAQkPtYJ3Cfrml6ua5adpkdlZrEpgw/viewform?edit_requested=true)

Support CHEER Through Donations

MNEA-Retired continually accepts donations to help sustain and expand the CHEER Grant Program. Donations can be made at:

<https://www.mnea.org/cheer-fund-contribution>

2025–2026 CHEER Grant Recipients and MNEA-R Sponsors

Grant Recipient	Grant Sponsor	Grant Recipient	Grant Sponsor
Brown, Christine	Blackwell, Mary	Wagaman, Angela	Minute, Patricia
Gray, Jenny	Bozeman, Jo Wanda	Souders, Jackie	O'Hearn, Karen
Peters, Kellie	Candela, Barbara	Turner, Teri	Payne, Kassie
Megl, Amanda	Carter, Donna	Sievers, Jamie	Peters, Nisa
Gartland, Meghan	Doss, Margery	Yauch, Erin	Readenour, Vicki
Dollins, Becky	Doyle, Netty	Viernes, Christian	Reger, Terry
Hilbert, Whitney	Gielser, Sharon	Duffey, Kristin	Roland, Beth Ann
Mooney, John	Gielser, Sharon	Mueller, Jill	Roland, Beth Ann
Rayoum, Stephanie	Gielser, Sharon	Weindel, Jenny	Schroeder, Beverly
Thomas, Jennifer	Gielser, Sharon	Wineberg, Marnie	Stegall, Beth
Geisner, Emily	Giesler, Sharon	Dillman, Beth	Trullinger
Hendricks, Amber	Hinsley, Judy	Vance, Sara	Vogt, Bev
Tomlinson, Elisa	Keuhner, Anita	Burkhardt, June	Wright, Ed
Cathro, Sarah	McClintic, Susan	Long, Angela	Wright, Ed

Missouri NEA Foundation Launches with Successful First Annual Gala

Phil Murray, MNEA Foundation Chair

On November 22, 2025, the Missouri NEA Foundation officially launched its work with a tremendous show of support during the **first-ever Missouri NEA Foundation Gala**, held in conjunction with the **MNEA Fall Conference**. The evening marked an exciting beginning for the Foundation and demonstrated the generosity and commitment of our members.

Thanks to the support of attendees and donors, the Foundation proudly raised **more than \$20,000** during this inaugural event. These funds will directly benefit our **HOPE Fund**, which provides charitable assistance to MNEA members in need, as well as **multiple scholarship funds** that support future educators.

The Missouri NEA Foundation was established to work in partnership with **MNEA and other organizations** to strengthen our profession through charitable giving. The Foundation supports:

- **MNEA members** through the HOPE Fund during times of hardship
- **Future educators** through endowed scholarships funded by estates, such as the **Gilbert Balderrama Scholarship**
- Scholarships sponsored by past Association leaders, including the **Cochran Scholarship**, the **Karlovetz-Favero Scholarship**, and the **Jack Kinnaman Scholarship**
- Additional awards created and supported by local associations
- This work reflects the best of who we are as educators—supporting one another and investing in the future of our profession.

I encourage **MNEA-R retired members** to consider contributing to the Missouri NEA Foundation. Your support helps ensure that current members receive assistance when they need it most and that aspiring educators are allowed to pursue their calling. If you would like to contribute by check:

Please make the check payable to MNEA Foundation and mail it to MNEA, ATTN: MNEA Foundation, 1810 East Elm Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

Together, we have launched something meaningful. With your continued support, the Missouri NEA Foundation will make a lasting difference for generations of educators to come.

MNEA-R PAC IS BACK

Your Voice Matters—And It's Stronger Than Ever

As an **MNEA-R member**, you are now part of the largest local within **Missouri NEA**. That size brings real influence. Your collective voice helps shape how MNEA advocates for public education employees and retirees across Missouri—and your continued engagement truly makes a difference.

Why MNEA-PAC Matters to Retirees

The **Missouri NEA Political Action Committee (MNEA-PAC)** is a critical tool in protecting public education and advancing the interests of both active and retired members. Through **voluntary contributions**, MNEA-PAC supports candidates for public office who align with MNEA's priorities—including issues that directly impact retirees and public schools.

Strong advocacy remains essential. Legislative proposals affecting the **Public School Retirement System of Missouri (PSRS/PEERS)** continue to surface, and MNEA closely monitors these issues to ensure retired educators' perspectives are represented at the Capitol.

Your Contribution Goes Further Than You Think

When you contribute to **MNEA-PAC** at

👉 <http://goodchange.app/donate/pacisback>

Please note: **your support benefits both MNEA's and MNEA-R's efforts.**

For **every dollar you give as a recurring monthly contribution** to MNEA-PAC:

- **Half** supports **statewide campaigns** aligned with MNEA's priorities.
- **Half** is returned directly to **MNEA-Retired**, helping fund **local initiatives** such as:
 - School board elections
 - Bond issues
 - Levy campaignsThese efforts strengthen public schools and help protect **PSRS/PEERS benefits**, in alignment with MNEA.

All MNEA-R -PAC funds are distributed only after a **thorough review process** by the **MNEA Executive PAC Council**, which includes:

- Reviewing candidate voting records
- Conducting interviews
- Evaluating alignment with **MNEA Resolutions** on education issues

Thank You for Staying Engaged

Thank you for your continued involvement and for the experience and perspective you bring to Missouri NEA. Your participation strengthens the collective voice of educators—past and present—and helps shape the future of public education in our state.

How to Sign Up for MNEA-PAC Membership

Monthly Subscription (A Monthly RECURRING Contribution)

Follow these steps carefully to ensure your donation is set up correctly:

🔗 Go to <http://goodchange.app/donate/pacisback>

First Page

- Select your donation amount
- Leave “guest” in the box
- Click **Continue**

Second Page

- Enter your personal information
- Use the drop-down menu to select your **state**
- Enter **RETIRED** as both:
 - Employer
 - Occupation
- Click **Continue**

Third Page

- Enter your payment information

Important Options to Select

- **Processing Fee:**
 - “Don’t Cover” is selected by default
 - Choose “**Cover Fee**” if you wish to include it
- **Make It Monthly:**
 - “**One Time Payment**” is selected by default
 - **You must select “Monthly Subscription” to become a MNEA PAC Member**
 - **This step is very important**

Click **Continue** to complete the process.

MNEA-R PAC Representatives on MNEA PAC Board

- Nancy Copenhaver
- Greg Meyer

MNEA-R PAC COMMITTEE

- *Wendy Kline Chair*
Pat McPartland, Doug Hurst, Beth Ann Roland, Michelle Miller

MNEA-R Elections

MNEA-Retired: Run for Office or NEA/MNEA Representative Assembly Delegate

Declarations Opens: January 21, 2026

Deadline: February 6, 2026, at 4:00 PM

MNEA-Retired Election: Declaration of Candidacy

Wondering how you can become more involved in MNEA-Retired? Run for office and/or as a delegate to the MNEA Representative Assembly, NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, and NEA Representative Assembly.

MNEA-Retired officers and delegates will be elected using online voting. MNEA-R Members will receive an email with your personal voting link. You may also find this information on the MNEA-R Page at <https://www.mnea.org/retired> (the information on these pages will be updated as the dates open for Declaration of Candidacy and Online Voting)

Candidates must complete a Declaration of Candidacy form found at the link below by the **deadline (4 p.m. Feb. 6, 2026)**. *Candidates will be listed in the election information given to delegates via email or at <https://www.mnea.org/retired>*

- Declaration of Candidacy Link <https://www.mnea.org/retired-candidate>
- Please submit a headshot and biography no longer than 150 words to be included with the ballot.

MNEA-R Open Positions

- MNEA-R Secretary (Executive Council/Officer)
- 4 Open MNEA-R Executive Council At-Large Positions

- 12 MNEA RA Delegate Positions
- 5 NEA RA Delegate Positions

MNEA-R Elections Chair, Julia Todd

Committee: Joyce Bluett, Jo Wanda Bozeman, Georgia Brady

MNEA-R ANNUAL MEETING

Mark Your Calendar: MNEA-R Annual Meeting

April 17, 2026 | Columbia, Missouri

The **MNEA-R Annual Meeting** is the most important event of the year for our local—and your participation truly matters. This is where retired educators come together to shape the direction of MNEA-R, conduct official business, and ensure our collective voice continues to be strong and effective.

Meeting Details

Wyndham Executive Center Columbia

(Former Holiday Inn Executive Center)

2200 Interstate 70 Dr. SW

Columbia, MO 65203

 **Friday, April 17, 2026**

Who Can Attend and Be a Delegate?

All MNEA-R members are eligible to serve as delegates to the MNEA-R Annual Meeting. Simply register in advance, and you will have full delegate rights—your voice, your vote, and your influence matter.

Registration will be completed online through the MNEA website before the April meeting. Additional details, reminders, and registration links will be shared through:

- Email communications
- The MNEA website
- The MNEA-R Facebook page

Members/Delegates who attend the Annual Meeting:

- Participate in important decision-making for MNEA-R
- Help guide the future priorities of our organization
- Stay informed about issues affecting retired educators
- Connect with fellow retirees from across the state

Your experience and perspective are invaluable. Make plans now to attend, be engaged, and help strengthen MNEA-R by taking part in this essential event. We look forward to seeing you in Columbia!



Sneak Peek..... MNEA-R Annual Meeting Guest Speaker:

Representative Kathy Stienhoff (MNEA-R Member!)

Representative Kathy Steinhoff, a Democrat, represents part of Boone County (District 45) in the Missouri House of Representatives. She was elected to her first two-year term in November 2022.

Before serving in the legislature, Steinhoff taught math in Columbia Public Schools for 34 years. She is a National Board Certified Teacher. She earned the National Education Association's highest honor of Teaching Excellence.

Steinhoff was extensively involved with Columbia NEA, where she served in many capacities, including as president from 2015 to 2021. She also served for nine years on the negotiations team.

REMINDERs

Does MNEA have your home email address?

MNEA-R wants to make sure you are getting the information and invitations you need to stay involved. Send MNEA a note at mneauupdate@mnea.org to make sure we have your current HOME email address so that you receive information about the things your regional group is doing.

MNEA-R Regional Webpage

Click the link to discover more and stay engaged!

<https://sites.google.com/view/mnea-r-regional-groups/home>

Check Facebook

Check the MNEA-Retired Facebook page for more information about upcoming events. Follow us at www.facebook.com/mnearetired.

MNEA-R Leadership Team 2025-2026



<u>MNEA-R Officers</u>	<u>Executive Council At-Large Members</u>
Treena Murray, President	Subina Button
Linda Innes, Vice President	Netty Doyle
Pat McPartland, Secretary	Holly Garrett, Communications
Kassie Payne, Treasurer	Doug Hurst
Lisa Kickbusch, Historian	Wendy Kline
Brent Fullington, Budget Chair	Jane McPartland
Beth Ann Roland, MNEA-R BOD	Susan Whitehead-Clark
	<u>MNEA-R Past President</u>
	Terry Reger



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 www.mnea.org/retired
 www.facebook.com/MNEARetired

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Treena Murray, MNEA-Retired President
Holly Garrett, MNEA-Retired Communications Chair
Dr. Patrick Layden, MNEA Executive Director

